PALM RIVER ACADEMY

Early Years Weekly Newsletter

QUARTER 2 · WEEK 5 · FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026



This week Nursery met the farm animals and Kindergarten made snow for their Arctic models.

Nursery met cows, pigs, sheep and ducks, copying their sounds and movements, and explored the letters O, U, L and F. Kindergarten learned the sound Jj and the digraph oa, began adding within 10, and made artificial snow for their Arctic habitat models. In Cooking, both classes baked fresh orange muffins for everyone at Palm River Academy.

Nursery

Farm Animals

Weekly Learning Focus

Nursery began the theme **Farm Animals**. Children learned to recognize farm animals by their names, sounds and movements, and used simple sentences to describe them through songs, games and hands-on activities.

Meeting the Farm Animals

Children learned about cows, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, chickens and ducks. They listened to animal sounds, copied the way each animal moves, and matched each animal to its sound and movement. New words: **cow, pig, sheep, horse, chicken, duck, moo, oink, baa, cluck, quack, run, walk** and **jump**.

English in Action

Children practiced questions and sentences in games and songs: **"What is it?" "It's a cow." "This is a pig." "What does a cow say?" "Moo!" "The duck can swim."** They also explored the letters **O, U, L** and **F**, listened for first sounds, followed instructions in phonics games, and asked and answered **"When is your birthday?"** They sang the Months of the Year song and joined in with "Walking in the Jungle."

Numbers & Reasoning

Children counted and recognized numbers within 10, and reviewed basic shapes and colors by observing and matching.

Make & Create

Children colored farm animal pictures, matched animals to their shadows and to their sounds, and painted inside drawn shapes. As they worked, they named the animals, sounds, colors and shapes and said in English which ones they chose.

Moving & Playing

Children danced in pairs, carried balls between their legs, and pulled a friend sitting in a cardboard box with a rope, building balance, coordination and teamwork.

Growing Together

Children talked about **"Be Kind"** and **"Sharing Is Caring"**: sharing toys and food, taking turns and looking after their friends.

Looking Ahead

Next week Nursery moves on to **Jungle Animals**: wild animals, their features, sounds and habitats, through stories, songs, games and crafts.

Phonics The letters Bb, Jj, Vv and Ww.

Doodle Town 1, Unit 4 About Me, including body parts.

Numbers & Reasoning Counting forwards to 10 and back from 10, and matching quantities.







Kindergarten

Arctic & Desert Habitats

Weekly Learning Focus

Kindergarten learned the letter sound **Jj** and the digraph **oa**, began **addition within 10**, and looked closely at two animal habitats, the **Arctic** and the **desert**. In science they made their own snow.

Phonics & Early Reading

Children learned the sound J through songs, found words that begin with J, and practiced forming uppercase and lowercase Jj. They explored the digraph **oa** and reviewed the heart words **I, the, he** and **she**. In a Tap the Word game they found the words in "I pat a cat," "I pat the cat," "He is sad" and "She can sit," put them in order and read each sentence aloud. They read *Brett's Dragon*, blending sounds to read words, and practiced writing Gg.

English in Action

Children read a book about animal habitats and talked about what each one is like and which animals live there. They asked **"What is the Arctic like?"**, **"Where do animals live?"** and **"How do animals stay warm?"** They also learned about rainforests, jungles, ponds and rivers, and finished practicing their role play and song for Respect in Action Week.

Numbers & Reasoning

Children added within 10 with buttons and cubes, joining two groups to find the total.

Understanding the World

Children reviewed six habitats: **Arctic, desert, ocean, forest, grassland** and **freshwater**. They looked closely at the Arctic and the desert and how animals adapt to survive there, including how Arctic animals stay warm.

Investigate & Describe

Children mixed baking soda and conditioner to make artificial snow. They guessed what would happen, then touched, described and compared the texture as it changed. New words: **snow, powder, soft, cold** and **mix**.

Make & Create

Children built Arctic habitat models, painting the ocean blue and white, using cotton for snow and ice, and adding Arctic animals, using the words **Arctic, frozen ocean, snow** and **ice**.

Growing Together

Children talk with their teacher confidently and work well as a group. They were excited and curious when the snow appeared.

Looking Ahead

Phonics The sounds **ie** and **ee** and the tricky words **me** and **we**.

Numbers & Reasoning More addition within 10.

Understanding the World More animal habitats.





Cooking

Nursery & Kindergarten

Both classes made fresh **orange muffins** this week for everyone at Palm River Academy. Children juiced and zested the oranges, measured the ingredients and mixed the batter. They learned the new words **zest** and **batter**, reviewed **pour** and **mix**, practiced spelling simple ingredient words, and read the recipe in English. It was a chance to work as a team and make something to share with the whole center.

Family Reminders

Please bring one favorite item for your child to talk about at Show & Tell.
Tuesday

Please pack a change of clothes for Water Play, which depends on the weather.
Friday

NOV 19
Teachers' Day Stay & Play. Families are invited to join us on campus, and children may stay if a parent or family member stays with them. We'll send an RSVP poll on Zalo.
Thursday, November 19, 3:30–4:15 PM

NOV 23
Vietnamese Culture Dress-Up Day. Children can wear red and yellow or Vietnamese-themed clothes.
Monday, November 23

NOV 24
No classes. PRA is closed for Vietnamese Culture Day.
Tuesday, November 24 NO CLASSES

NOV 26
Thanksgiving lunch with families, 11:35 AM–12:25 PM for Early Years. We'll share a sign-up sheet.
Thursday, November 26

Thank you for being part of our learning community. We look forward to another week of discovery, creativity, and growing confidence in English!

Warm regards,
Palm River Academy English Center

Read it online